

Weekly Newsletter Wed. December 17, 2025



Recommendations From the Honors Office

At this time of year we like to share recommendations from the Honors office staff - these are the things that we are listening to, watching, and reading that give us joy, teach us something new about the world, or provide a moment for reflection (or distraction!). We hope you'll find something in our list below that will pique your interest, inspire you to learn more, and help you unwind over the winter break and into the new year.

From all of us in the Honors office - we hope you have a wonderful break spent connecting with family, friends and loved ones. Enjoy your time away, safe travels, and Happy New Year!

Books

- *A Guardian and a Thief*, Magha Majumdar
- *Framed*, Jim McCloskey & John Grisham
- *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell
- *Pachinko*, Min Jin Lee
- *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak
- *The Poppy War*, R.F. Kuang
- *The Quantum Universe: (An Why Anything That Can Happen, Does)*, Brian Cox & Jeff Foreshaw
- *The Song of Achilles*, Madeline Miller
- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls
- *Why Does E=mc²? (And Why We Should Care?)*, Brian Cox & Jeff Foreshaw

Musical Artist/Album

- Billy Joel

- *One From the Vault*, The Grateful Dead (1991)
- Red Hot Chili Peppers
- *Safe in the Steep Cliffs*, Emancipator (2010)
- *The Life of a Showgirl*, Taylor Swift (2025)
- *Wish You Were Here*, Pink Floyd (1975)

Holiday/Winter Movie

- *Elf* (2003)
- *Home Alone* (1990)
- *John Denver and the Muppets: A Christmas Together* (1979)
- *Love Actually* (2003)
- *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)
- *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy (2001-2003)
- *When Harry Met Sally* (1989)

TV Shows

- *Arcane* (2021)
- *Dark* (2017)
- *Grey's Anatomy* (2005)
- *Lowdown* (2025)
- *On Brand With Jimmy Fallon* (2025)
- *Only Murders in the Building* (2021)
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (2023)
- *Project Runway* (2004)
- *Slow Horses* (2022)
- *The Umbrella Academy* (2019)
- All *Star Wars* shows

Podcasts

- *A Hot Dog Is a Sandwich*, Josh Scherer & Nicole Enayati
- *Heavyweight*, Jonathan Goldstein
- *Short Wave*, NPR

In this message

- Visionary Voices: Expressions of King's Legacy
- Start Thinking About Spring Honors Options
- Complementary Learning: Virtual Opportunities

Visionary Voices

Small Group Discussion

Expressions of King's Legacy

Keynote Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr.



Visionary Voices: Expressions of King's Legacy

Join RIT for the 2026 Expressions of King's Legacy Keynote Speaker

Expressions of King's Legacy programming has been dedicated to celebrating the life and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for 44 years at RIT. This year, the keynote speaker is scholar, political commentator, and New York Times bestselling author Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.

Join Glaude for the keynote address on Thursday, 1/29/2026 from 12:00-2:00pm in the Gordon Field House and learn more and sign up at [this link](#).

Visionary Voices Group Discussion

You have a special opportunity to participate in a small group discussion with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. before the keynote address.

Food will be provided and there are only 18 spots available, so sign up today! Don't miss out on the chance to ask all your questions to a renowned scholar!

1/29/2026 from 11:00-11:45am

Gordon Field House

All registrants will receive a free copy of Glaude's bestselling book: *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for our Own*

[Register for the Visionary Voices Small Group Discussion](#)

The university-wide keynote address and the small group discussion are approved for complementary learning.



Spring Honors Options

Start Thinking About Spring Honors Options

Looking to get Honors Points for the academic year? It is never start early to start thinking about Honors Options!

Honors Options are a great way to create a honors-level course by enriching a standard course (1 credit = 1 point). If you are thinking about an option or independent study, now is the time to work with your faculty member to develop your proposal.

The application is currently accepting submissions and the **deadline to submit for the spring semester is Sunday, Jan. 25 at 11:59 PM**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Click the button to see past examples, FAQs, and find the application and reporting forms.

[Learn More About Honors Options & Submit a Proposal](#)

Complementary Learning

Please see below our highlight opportunities this week. There are many other's listed on the [complementary learning webpage](#) that can fit almost anyone's busy schedule and diverse set of interests.

Complementary Learning is an annual requirement based on the year you entered the Honors program. The submission cycle runs from September to August each year. Please check the [Honors Handbook](#) for details about what counts for complementary learning and how to fulfill your annual requirement and remain in good standing in the program.

All complementary learning hours should be submitted contemporaneously, within 30 days of the event or activity, using the submission form linked below or located within the *User Tools* tab of the Honors website.

Virtual Opportunities for Winter Break



Complementary Learning Doesn't Have to Stop Over Winter Break!

If you want to continue to fulfill your complementary learning but don't know where to start or are traveling over break, have no fear, there are plenty of approved virtual opportunities. These online organizations need volunteers and have been approved by the Honors Program. Some organizations to highlight are:

- [Smithsonian Digital Volunteers](#): Transcription services, archive forensics, encyclopedia of life, Smithsonian wiki
- [UN Volunteers main info page/Opportunity listing](#): Supporting UN Efforts across the globe
- [Be My Eyes](#): Help out blind and low-vision individuals with their daily tasks through your smartphone
- [ZSL Instant Wild](#): Contribute to conservation efforts by tagging animals in images and videos

Click on the button below to see a full list/descriptions of virtual complementary learning opportunities.

If you find an opportunity that is not included and would like it checked for approval, send an email to honors@rit.edu.

Virtual Complementary Learning

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."

-Hal Borland

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